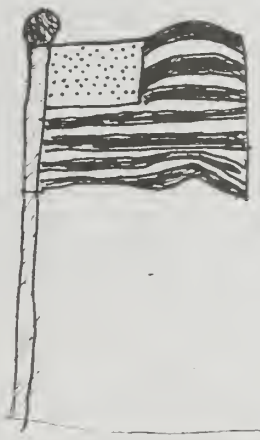
WENDELL POST



50¢ (cheap)

Spring '97

Vol. 21 #1

Austin Kohler

MEMORIAL DAY '97

SUNDAY, MAY 25
1:00 P.M.
WENDELL TOWN COMMON

Soon the Common will be fluttering with red, white and blue, signaling an event that could come right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, a real small town pull-out-all-stops honoring of our American Veterans.

Annie Hartjens reports that the Wendell Positive Action Committee is once again planning Memorial Day observances on the Town Common, beginning at 1:00. Says Annie, "I think we started in '92."

As is traditional, the event will feature a parade including the Mahar Band, an Army Reserve Unit, and, hopefully scouts. Following will be ceremonies, a speaker, music, then refreshments served at the Senior Center.

"Danny Bacigalupo brings up flags and wreaths, which are purchased from the Memorial Day Fund. He brings them to me, and I take care of them", says Annie. "He gets a good deal on the flags because he gets them for the cemeteries."

What is Annie's favorite part of the day? "Oh, the music... and the parade, because I'm a parade person. Taps, I like Taps, too. And, I like to see everybody, to get out and do things together."

What about if it rains? "We have it any way. What are you going to do? The guys fought and died in the rain. They were all lying in the mud and everything. So, I guess we can walk in the rain, right?"

MEMORIAL DAY 1997 see pg 2⇒

THANK YOU FROM THE SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

THANKS AND GOODBYE TO LEONARD

It's hard to believe
you are going away!
Our number one guy
leaves on Valentine's Day?!

You know we'll miss you,
and we know you'll miss us,
but we'll try not to make
too much of a fuss.

We feel so lucky
that we've been in your care
for twenty one years!
We've had more than our share.

Thanks to your kids
and of course to your wife
for sharing you with us
for so much of your life.

How can we start
to list what you do?
You're a jack-of-all -trades
and a Principal, too!

From all of us
By Molly Kaynor

You gave us your mind
and your heart and your soul.
You managed with grace,
and kept sight of each goal.

We've felt safe in your care.
You've heard every voice.
You've respected us all,
and examined each choice.

Your kind, steady hand
now can let go.
From your patient guidance
we'll continue to grow.

You wove your values
and standards so deep,
those gifts from you
we always will keep.

Stop in to see us
when you're not on the run,
and don't forget
to relax and have fun.

TOWN ELECTION ISSUE

TOWN ELECTIONS are
1st MONDAY IN MAY
MAY 5th
10A - 8P
SENIOR CENTER

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
starts
- TUESDAY, MAY 27th
- 7⁰⁰ PM
- TOWN HALL

Photo C. Kegeles

WENDELL POST

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Gloria Kegeles 544-0922

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Treasurer: Ina Phelps
Printer: Highland Press

POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, PO Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379.

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

ADS $7.50 business card!

Letters

March 24, 1997

Letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

I present to you these criticisms of Rural Development Inc.'s appliation for a Comprehensive Permit to build 5 single-family homes under the self-help housing program to meet the Town of Wendell's obligations under the "Anti-Snob" Zoning Act.

1. The architectural designs presented for these homes are antiquated and obsolete. Details are inconsistent and incorrect and will cost the future homeowners much additional expenses in personal health-related costs and heating bills.
2. It is extremely questionable of how affordable these homes will be after the final costs for the road purchase, construction and maintenance of Wren Gould Road are factored into the cost of the project.
3. The initial cost of the land is way above all market value in the area and appears to be a back room deal between the owner and agency. Less expensive land is on the market in Wendell in more accessible and convenient locations.
4. The project appears to be an exploitation of the labor of low income families who have been approved and it would remain extremely doubtful if these families would ever retrieve their sweat equity from the project if sold.
5. Low income families living in Wendell who applied for this project were turned down because they didn't make enough money. I.e. they were too poor to be accepted.

I have been a neighbor to Wendell for almost 12 years now and I consider that town to be one of the best in Franklin County. I resent the implication that Wendell is being "snobbish" by refusing to allow this project to go forward. I do believe the town has a fair share of elitist types but under no circumstances do I think that they are attempting to block the arrival of new people. In fact I believe the opposite is true, that they are welcoming these folks and attempting to protect them from an extremely bad deal. I know that the attitude of the people of Wendell is one of openness and acceptance and they have shown me time and time again that they are good neighbors who are aware of the changing conditions of our crazy and zaney world. I myself will volunteer and I think I know a few other people in town that would offer their services to these new folks to help them relocate in an energy efficient, non-toxic and beautiful house design.

Josh Dostis
New Salem

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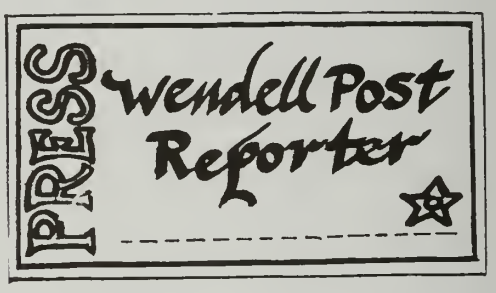
*114 Morman Hollow Rd * Millers Falls, MA 01349*

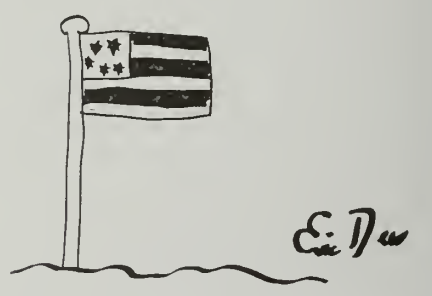
Letters

Thank You

Patti and Vic Scutari wish to thank the **Friends of Wendell** for the lovingkindness they have lavished on the Wendell Country Store. Due to their moral support and a wonderful fund raiser, the *store* has been able to buy and install a much needed security system. Special thanks to Mez Ziemba and Chris Marano for working feverishly to make the fund raiser such a warm community affair.

We feel blessed to live in Wendell because it is a community that cares for and thrives on helping each member. The goodness of the **Friends of Wendell** will always be remembered.





MEMORIAL DAY '97 cont...

Who else enjoys the day as much as Annie? "Oh, Judy and David (Wilder), Christina, Michael (her daughter and son in law), and the kids. All the kids kind of like it, I think. Everybody does, don't you think so? You know who comes all the time? The whole Powling family, and some of them don't all even live in town anymore. And you know the flag, the big one, that hangs next to the bandstand? Audrey Powling lets us use it. That was her husband's flag. It was presented to her when her husband died. It was draped on his casket.

And Jessie Wetherby has let us use her husband's flag. Once we had pouring rain. The flag got soaked. I had to throw it through the spin cycle and into the dryer so it wouldn't run!

Yes, folks, our Memorial Day is the real thing. Some of the women put on their hats, even white gloves are not out of place. Men with their brass buttons and ties are as welcome as the next guy. Take your children by the hands, leash the dog (please), and come on up.

Annie promises "It's small. It's not drawn out. Everyone is walking along, and you see everybody, and the kids are so cute."

Kathy Becker

Pg 3

OFFICES + CANDIDATES

SELECTBOARD - 3 YEARS
THEODORE LEWIS

BOARD OF HEALTH - 3 YEARS
BLANK

BOARD OF HEALTH - 3 YEARS
BLANK

TREASURER - 2 YEARS
CAROLYN MANLEY - WRITE IN

BOARD OF ASSESSORS - 3 YEARS
CHARLES BOWES

PLANNING BOARD - 5 YEARS
BLANK

MODERATOR - 1 YEAR
KATHY BECKER

CEMETERY COMM. - 3 YEARS
RICHARD WILDER

ROAD COMM. - 3 YEARS
MICHEAL ANDERSON

SCHOOL COMM. - 3 YEARS
CHRISTINE EWELL

SCHOOL COMM. - 3 YEARS
PHIL DELOREY

TREE WARDEN - 1 YEAR
DANIEL BACIGALUPO

LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 3 YEARS
OLGA HOLMBERG

LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 3 YEARS
JANET MANKOWSKY

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TED LEWIS

Ted Lewis is running for the tenth time for the Selectboard. He has been a member for 27 years. He ran the first time in 1970. This will be only the second time he has run unopposed. Ted has seen many changes in his time on the board. He remembers the days when you did not have hearings, you just talked things out and then made a decision. Also in days past the Selectboard was the Board of Health, the Finance Comm., Police and Road Commissioners and the Fire and Police Chief. Now things are very different, there are newspapers at the meetings and things that are talked about his wife may know before he even gets home.

When asked why he continues to so this job, he says the town could use someone that has experience and with Margo and Anne most likely getting done when their terms are up he figures he'll just stay put. He also says "I like the town. What does the town have to offer? It's the people that Wendell has." He has had chances to move - job offers but he likes New England and likes to be somewhere he knows the people. Ted likes meeting with people. He says that you have to be impartial to do a good job. In his own words " I may not be the smartest but I'll commit myself."

Anne Diemand

TOWN MODERATOR

I, Kathy Becker, of Locke Hill Road, am running yet again for Town Moderator. I hope that people will come out to vote. It worries me that many people are forgetting that our vote is our freedom. Your vote, and whether to use it, is in your hands.

If elected, I will appoint Jonathan von Ranson as Assistant Town Moderator, as he has demonstrated parliamentary dexterity in this role previously.

Thank you for your interest in the election. See you at the Polls, and at Town Meeting.

Sincerely,
Kathy Becker

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Board of Assessor's

The Board of Assessors will have an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for $3,000. This money will be used for one half of the cost of an interior inspection program of all properties in Wendell. The State is requiring that all properties be remeasured and reinspected to insure that our data for taxation purposes is correct. The process will run over the course of two years to begin early this summer and will be completed next summer. The second half funding will be raised in the fiscal year 1999 budget. Further information will be in the Wendell Post and local newspapers as it is available.

ASSESSORS' MEETING SCHEDULE

The Assessors meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

ASSISTANT TO THE ASSESSORS: The office is open Thursdays from 2 - 4 p.m.

Jean E Dwight

New Titles at Library

Adult Fiction

1. The Partners, John Grisham
2. Air Frame, Michael Crichton
3. Desperation, Stephen King
4. The Regulators, Richard Bachman
5. The First Man, Albert Camus
6. The Law of Love, Laura Esquivel
7. The Paperboy, Peter Dexter
8. R.L.'s Dream, Walter Mosley
9. A River Town, Thomas Keneally
10. The Fallen Man, Tony Hillerman
11. Hornet's Nest, Patricia Cornwell

Adult Non-Fiction

1. Wetlands - The Web of Life, Paul and Paulette Rezendes
2. The Liars Club, Mary Karr
3. My American Journey, Colin Powell
4. Cradle-to-Grave Legal Survival Guide, editors of Court T.V.
5. Paying for Your Child's college Education, M. Smith
6. N.Y. Times Personal Finance Handbook, L. Sloane
7. Life After Debt, Bob Hammond
8. Watering Systems for Lawn and Garden, R. Woodson
9. High Tide in Tucson, Barbara Kingsolver
10. Travel Guides for Europe and Mexico
11. The Sports Medicine Bible, L. Micheli, M.D.

WILLIAM TROUSDALE, JR.

William M. Trousdale, Jr died on Feb 14 1997 at his home on Locks Village Rd He was born on June 29, 1926 in Boston, the son of William M. and Helen V. (May) Trousdale, Sr

Bill attended schools in St Louis, Boston and Marlboro, After graduating from Dean Academy in Franklin, he attended Tufts University in Somerville, and graduated in 1949 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics. He worked at the McLellan's Stores for ten years until becoming manager for two stores. He then worked at Genung's Department Store, New London, Conn., until becoming manager of a GMC Truck Dealership in Montville, Conn. After moving to Wendell he was an accountant for Michael Skibiski Realty in Sunderland until his retirement in 1982.

He was married to Beverly (McAvoy) Trousdale. They met at a Tufts game at UMass Beverly had dropped her scarf and Bill picked it up. They dated for two years before their marriage on April 30. 1949. They had two sons, Lee of Wendell and Neal of Boston and a grandson, Kevin also of Wendell.

What his family remembers most about him was his caring ways. He took care of his mother-in-law, Josephine in her older years and he cared for his wife until his death He would also help in little ways. When Lee and Ellie were building their house he would come over for even ten minutes at a time to give them a hand. He took great pride in them building their own house and the fact they were building close to family. When the house was being built he would make supper enough for four so that when they were done if they wanted to join Beverly and him they could. He took great pleasure in taking his dog out for walks. That is the memory that Kevin has - of seeing Grampa out the back window walking with the dog. There were many memories I heard about, some very funny and some very close to the heart.

Some of Bill's interests were his gardens, the pond out back, animals, scuba diving, swimming, playing bridge, reading and his family. He would carry food down to the pond for the birds. There is a pair of Canadian geese that have been coming to the pond for 10 years He would also try and figure out a way to outfox the animals that dug up his gardens. One time he trapped a groundhog and brought it to Sunderland This was an ongoing battle that he took much pleasure in. When he was a child he lived in Boston and his mother would take him to shows. As a adult he would take Beverly to the theater and symphony, sometimes trips to New York, other times just local shows and museums. Their favorites were the museum in Williamsburg and the Fine Arts Museum in Boston.

Bill was a quiet sort of man until his retirement, then he enjoyed talking and being at home, doing his gardens, taking his dog for walks and helping in whatever way he could That is how he will be remembered.

Anne Diemand

Harry J. Morey

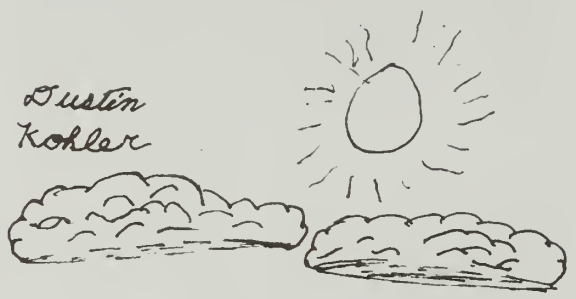
Harry J. Morey, age 78 years, died suddenly January 9 at home.

He was born in Wendell, Mass. and has been a resident of Pemberton since 1958. He was a retired Sgt. First Class from the U.S. Army, Veterans of WWII and Korea and also served in the U.S. Navy.

He was also a retired Equipment Operator for the Post Engineers, Fort Dix U.S. Civil Service. He was a member of the Pemberton Masonic Lodge No. 199 F & A.M. and also a member of the Collingswood Consistory. Mr. Morey was also a member of the Eden-Stanley American Legion Post #294, Pemberton and a member of the Browns Mills VFW Post #6805.

He is survived by his beloved wife Emma B. (nee Mayer); cousins and one son in Fla.; relatives and friends in Mass. Arrangements by The Lankenau Funeral Home, 31 Elizabeth St., Pemberton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Heart Fund.



WENDELL WEATHER

	DEC	JAN	FEB
Avg H Temp	39	31	40
Avg L Temp	27	14	21
Mean	32.5	22.8	30.6
Avg Mean(88-95)	26.5	23.0	22.9
Rain	5.0	1.2	.75
Snow	27	10 5	8.25

December and February were much warmer than my average with December 6 degrees warmer and February over 7 degrees. The onset of global warming or just a natural aberration? Who knows?

Relative to last winter this season seems almost snowless but here is a summary of the total snowfall for the winters since 1988 - 1989 and how this year compares so far:

WINTER	SNOW(")
95 - 96	138.4
92 - 93	102.35
93 - 94	86.25
96 - 97	59.25 (as of March 25)
89 - 90	51.5
91 - 92	43.2
90 - 91	40.9
88 - 89	37.9
94 - 95	37.65
Average	66.05

Although it sure seems like there has been a real lack of snow this winter, it is actually just a little below my average. However, if you subtract the 24" weekend snowfall in mid-Dec. it would be the least snowiest winter (at least so far).

Well that's enough talk about snow its time to think of spring!

Bill Lafley

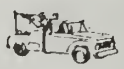
WENDELL POLICE LOG

12-15-96	Safety hazard. Two snowmobiles riding up and down the road Montague Rd.
12-17-96	Vehicle hit by unknown driver Wendell Country Store
12-23-96	Alarm at Jennison Rd residence
12-26-96	Missing person at Lake Grove School.
12-26-96	Alarm at Jennison Rd. residence
12-28-96	One car accident on Kentfield Rd
12-29-96	Officer wanted. Stone Rd.
01-03-97	Alarm at Jennison Rd. residence.
01-04-97	Check welfare Mormon Hollow
01-05-97	Suspicious vehicle Sears Rd
01-17-97	Three ten-wheelers blocking road Wren Gould Rd
01-19-97	Alarm at West Rd residence.
01-21-97	Fire at Locke Hill Rd. home.
01-21-97	One car accident on corner of West and Montague Rd.
01-24-97	Officer wanted Unwanted person on property. Jennison Rd.
01-27-97	Traffic hazard - tractor trailer jackknifed. Jennison Rd.
01-28-97	Disturbance on Mountain Laurel Rd
02-01-97	Officer wanted Locke's Village Rd.
02-01-97	Larceny. Locke's Village Rd.
02-02-97	Check welfare. Mountain Laurel Dr
02-03-97	Breaking and Entering. Farley Rd
02-09-97	Riderless horse West Rd.
02-12-97	Harassing phone calls. Farley Rd.
02-14-97	Two car accident with damage. Wendell Depot Rd.
02-21-97	Vehicle run off the road Mormon Hollow Rd
03-02-97	One car accident on West Rd.
03-04-97	Medical emergency on Mormon Hollow Rd.
03-07-97	Check building Jennison Rd
03-07-97	Check welfare. Wendell Depot Rd
03-08-97	One car accident Wendell Depot Rd No injuries
03-08-97	One car accident. Somewhere between Center and New Salem.
03-14-97	Breaking and Entering. Locke Hill Rd
03-15-97	One car accident. Farley Rd
03-15-97	Suspicious vehicle by Fiske Pond
03-30-97	Suspicious vehicle on Wren Gould Rd.
03-30-97	Noise complaint on West Rd.
03-31-97	One car accident on Locke's Village Rd Damage to property
03-31-97	Car off road by WRATS

Fire Log

43	12\22\96	Med Call	71 Mormon Hollow Rd.
44	12\26\96	Illegal Burn	Wendell Depot Rd.
#1	1\21\97	Structure Fire	Lockes Village Rd.
#2	1\22\97	Med call	Mormon Hollow Rd.

508-544-7601



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MINUTES

SELECTBOARD

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 10, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board voted in winter parking ban effective from December 1, 1996 to May 1, 1997.

Phil and Penny Delorey, Swift River School representatives spoke to Board of a schoolbus stuck on Jennison Road for 2 hours during December 6, 1996 storm. Board discussed with Mr. and Mrs. Delorey better communication systems between bus company, school system, road crew, and Road Commission.

Harry Williston, Road Commissioner attended for Grader Bid Award. Board voted bid award to Woods Equipment.

Discussion of plowing of Wren Gould Rd. from consultation with John Gates, Town Counsel. Discontinued roads can be plowed only after a 25% Town vote to appropriate monies. This must be a ballot question in the Annual Town Election.

Discussion of building an enclosure on Town Garage for generator to provide power for Town Buildings and Storm Shelter.

Chris Moreno will hold a Wendell Country Store Fun Fest fundraiser at the Town Hall on February 1, 1997 from 1-5.

Rosemary Sheola will hold a Winter Solstice Gathering in the Town Hall on December 20, 1996.

Board signed Warranty Deed and Disclosure Statement for cemetary land exchange.

Towns without licensed lottery agent are exempt from penalty and will receive Keno monies.

Discussion of discontinuance of Wendell end of Rockwood Hill Road from correspondence received from Bill Allen, Shutesbury Selectman.

Discussion of Steve Kulik filing of the adverse impact of the PILOT bill.

Thank you letter sent to Lake Grove School for their shoveling efforts at Town Buildings after the December 6, 1996 storm.

Discussion of Rupert Clark being available for Town Office electrical work in January.

Dotty Cleveland was appointed as Board of Health Clerk.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 17, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Josh Dostis attended with plans and to discuss parking for Full Moon Coffeehouse events and other events requiring parking monitoring.

Mike Wing attended to discuss plowing of Wickett Pond Rd. north corner with Montague Rd.

Board signed Auto License renewals for 4 Class III and 1 Class II.

Board signed extension of contract for Dry Hydrant project.

Board signed authorization to disburse for for Erving HP project.

Tom Chaisson discussed with Board guidelines of winter parking ban after as a vehicle was towed from his driveway.

Lake Grove School Administration will meet with Board on January 21, 1997.

Invitation from Lake Grove School for Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 20, 1996 at 5:30.

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Director's Report and meeting notice received.

Sarah de Roode, Civil Defense Director discussed plans for use of Town buildings and work needed to provide shelter in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Civil Defense Committee will be formed of Departments Heads and citizens.

Money Management Team will meet Tuesday January 7, 1997 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 7, 1997 Minutes Members present were Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Warrant was signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

State statute of plowing of discontinued roads discussed in reference to Wren Gould Rd. Plowing is allowed with a 20% or 200 registered voters voting in on an Annual Town Election Ballot vote.

Letter received from Jury Commissioner notifying Town Clerk of Street List to be completed by June 1,1997.

Ted Lewis thanked all present for their work in December 1996 during his absence.

Discussion of overdue NYNEX bill for Fire Department call forwarding through 911.

Discussion of Wendell's discontinuance of Rockwell Hill Rd. on advisement that Shutesbury will discontinue their end.

DEM Goals Draft Plan received with plans included for road repair caused by storm for Wendell State Forest

New Salem /Wendell School Committee Meeting will be January 9, 1997.

Grassell walkway plan reviewed for Morse Village Rd.

Letter received from Emma Cappalozo.

Discussion of Eric Wight, Building Inspector's report of a barn built that never had a Building Permit.

Board signed County Commissioner's votes for Town Clerk.

Bill received from Leader Home Centers for Town Hall window replacement.

Discussion of Wendell Housing Rehab Grant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Wendell Selectboard Meeeting January 14, 1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Josh Dostis discussed parking plan for Town Hall and Full Moon Coffeehouse events.

Board signed license for Wendell Depot Store.

Selectboard Report for Annual Town Report is due on February 27, 1997.

Board signed letter to Sean Conway of Wren Gould Road explaining State Statutes for plowing of discontinued roads.

Letter received on Mass Highway's new metric version manual.

Board met with Road Commissioner's to discuss

Signs placed to designate Wendell as a Reduced Salt Area. Salt use can be increased through Town Meeting.

Roof repair, deflector over door for sliding snow, and generator installation at Highway Garage.

Discussion of adding a line item to Highway budget to cover Public Works maintainance of Town buildings and areas.

Discussion of dispatchers from departments familiar in radio operation manning radios in emergency situations to assure communication between Police, Fire, and highway Departments.

Towing policy discussed in reference to Thomas Chaisson towing.

State Forest Management Plan will be presented at the Fisher Hill School in Orange on February 5, 1997.

Anne Diemand discussed Recreation Committee plans for teen games, basketball court, skating rink. Spring dance and potluck, and Summer singalongs and concerts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 21, 1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present was Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Josh Dostis finalized parking diagram with Board for Town Hall events and will submit to Police for final approval.

Pam Howland, Franklin Regional Housing Self Help Project discussed Comprehensive Permit for Wren Gould Road. Meeting with John Gates, Town Counsel for all involved departments will be held before Public Hearing to be held by February 16, 1996.

Roland Paulauskas, Director of Lake Grove School discussed resuming quarterly citizens meetings, programs, and shoveling of Town buildings by students.

Information received from AT & T that their tower light intensity meets new FAA regulations. Adjustments from day to night will be checked to try to reduce brightness to concerned citizens.

Bill received for removal of stove from Town Hall kitchen.

Board voted unanimously the requirement on all further Town contracts and services written or verbal that a copy of certificate of insurance on file.

Regina Curtis discussed liability insurance information received.

Estimate received for Town Hall boiler and furnace replacement.

Discussion of current Annual Town Meeting items.

Discussion of odors and length of operation of D&B Landfill.

Anne Zak signed various grant documents.

Engineers amended Notice of Intent received for Morse Village Road Walkway.

Route 2 Task Force Meeting will be January 30, 1997 at the Franklin County Courthouse.

Received loan information from CDC for small businesses.

Joe Coll gave Board copy of rough charter draft for Franklin County Commission.

Discussion of rooster noise naisance from Michael Wing's property that is a health hazard to the neighboring Choiniere's. Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Wendell Selectboard Meeting January 28, 1997 Minutes Members present were Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present was Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Board met with Swift River School Committee members to discuss three year budget upgrade to include an Art . SPED, and Computer Technology teaching positions. State money, grants, funding and Principal Leonard Strauss's resignation were discussed.

Cemetary Deed has been received.

All departments will be notified that a copy of insurance must be on file for all verbal, written, and contractual services.

Michael Wing has received a hen from Wanita Sears in trade for his rooster solving the noise nuisance from his residence to the neighboring Choiniere's. Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 4, 1997 Minutes Members present were Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed $84,912 contract for Wendell Depot Rd. Culvert at Plain Rd.

Swift River School has received $45,000 in Anomoly Funds from the Department of Education.

Nomination form signed for Debbie Lapinski as Animal Inspector.

Memo reviewed notifying all departments of ZBA Hearing for Wren Gould Rd. Wednesday February 12, 1997 at the Town Hall.

Margo Culley and Ted Lewis attended the Farewell Party for Leonard Strauss, Swift River School Principal on Tuesday February 4, 1997.

Agenda received for Shelburne Control Meeting February 4, 1997.

Proposed warrant article received for Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Lake Grove Community Advisory board Meeting will be February 25, 1997 at 7:15 at the Lake Grove Administration Building.

Joe Coll discussed Structure Committee recommendations for Franklin County Charter Commission. Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 11, 1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present was Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Bill Allen, Franklin County Planning Board attended to discuss discontinuance of Rockwood Hill Road and Horse Hill Extension. Petition to Discontinue will be presented to County Commissioners.

Chris Moreno discussed Friends of Wendell Fundraiser results. $500 was raised for the Wendell Country Store. Balance will be operating fund for future fundraisers.

Bruce Hunter, Franklin Regional Housing Authority discussed FY '97 Community Block Grant. Survey will be done to show low to moderate income areas for road rehabilitation.

Board has asked Lake Grove School to reschedule Community Advisory Board Meeting from Tuesday February 25, 1997 date.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article from Franklin Council of Governments.

Public Hearing for Franklin County Commission Draft Charter will be Thursday February 13, 1997 at the Orange Armory at 7:00..

Low Level Radioactive Waste Meeting on February 26, 1997 in Boston.

Route 2 Task Force Meeting will be Wednesday February 19, 1997.

Letter received from Jonathan vonRanson for Chapter 61 first option on sale of his home.

Anne Zak signed Agreement for Administration to Franklin Regional Housing Authority.

Housing rehabilitation amounts received for this year.

New bridge rating received for Farley bridge.

Vegetation Control Plan received from Mass Electric. Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 18, 1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis. Also present was Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Discussion of interior painting of Town Hall before estimates. Jerry Eide has voluntarily done some painting prep work.

Discussion of hours Town Custodian, Joy Gorzokoski is working.

Positions up for Election discussed.

License signed for Wendell Country Store.

Town Common Improvement Committee Meeting will be March 5, 1997.

Reminder to Board of their report for Annual Report is due on February 27, 1997.

Board signed release of Chapter 61 letter to Jonathan VonRanson.

Christine Lewis will serve as Interim Principal at Swift River School until permanent appointment is made.

Franklin County Selectman's Association Meeting March 6, 1997 at Greenfield Elk's Club.

ZBA Public Hearing is continued to February 26, 1997.

Franklin County Solid Waste Management Meeting is February 20, 1997. Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Wendell Selectboard Meeting February 25,1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak and Ted Lewis. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Paul Rich discussed with Board a Registry of Motor Vehicles issue in relationship to his dealership license.

Town Common Improvement Committee Meeting will be February 26, 1997.

Letter received from Franklin County Community Development Corporation of available services and assistance for entrepeneurs.

Swift River School Committee Meeting February 27, 1997 will be an open forum for discussion of prefered qualities in a new principal.

Letter received from DOR in reference to Schedule A receipt.

Bill Allen, Franklin County Planner will attend future meeting to further discuss road discontinuances.

Wendell received an "A" on the Municipal Recyling Report Card from DEP.

Update report received from Franklin County Solid Waste Management.

Discussion of Community Septic Tank Management Program for Annual Town Meeting.

Discussion With Lee Trousdale, Finance Committee.

Martina Carroll, received Special Recognition Award from the DEP for Solid Waste and Recycling.

Anne Diemand discussed following future event dates:
Playground Grand Opening May 11, 1997 at 4:00 Raindate May 18, 1997
Spring Cleanup April 5, 1997
Raindate April 12, 1997
Old Home Days July 12, 1997
Raindate July 13,1997
Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting March 4, 1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak and Ted Lewis. Warrant was signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Josh Dostis attended to discuss Town Hall rental.

Board signed letter to Franklin County Regional Housing Authority Economic Development Project.

Board signed letter to DEP for Community Septic Program.

Board signed proclamation for Girl Scouts.

New Salem- Wendell School Committee Meeting will be March 6, 1997 at 7:30.

Discussion of budget request items for Finance Committee.

Discussion of town employee health insurance options. Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting March 11,1997 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present was Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at7:00.

Discussion of Updated Street List.

Town Hall rental requests from Ed Chase and Rosemary Sheola. Josh Dostis modified date on previous rental request.

Ted Lewis received copy of notice sent to all local Emergency Planning Committees.

Letter to Mr. Lewis of HazMat response Meeting.

Discussion of Wren Gould Rd. Comprehensive Permit Application's juridictional questions for John Gates, Town Counsel.

Letter received from Massachusetts Municipal Association on diversity outreach.

Annual Town Meeting Articles deadline tentatively set for April 22, 1997.

Annual Town Meeting tentatively set for May 20, 1997. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

Jerry Eide
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Community Council Starts

Seventeen Wendell residents met April 6 at the Senior Center for the first meeting of the Wendell Community Council. The group brainstormed about the mission of the new Council and took on the immediate task of helping cover the work and home obligations and income needs of a woman who was ill but felt she couldn't take time off work to recover. Child care and driving will also be offered to her.

The Council was born out of the desire to help the Wendell store after a series of break-ins, and stepping in at times of crisis is central to the new group's purpose. Its "parent," Friends of Wendell, held a successful fundraising event (an afternoon of family entertainment Feb. 1 at the Town Hall) and donations may be made into an account in an Orange bank, supervised by Chris Marano (544-0240).

Other possible functions the Council may take on are mediating "hot" issues for individuals and the Town; and the ongoing work of making local skills more available to take care of local needs (as in a "skills bank"). Finally, the group dreams of helping itself and all of us through the wall of stereotypes that keeps us divided.

"We are all part of a community," I heard members of the group saying--"people of whatever age or choices and even other species--and our work is, through growing maturity, to act more and more like one." Factions, they were saying, give a comfort that is short-lived and backfires eventually.

The idea that it's possible to break through our own entrenched thinking comes from the field of communication skills, which the group referred to over and over. But it takes the kind of focussed energy and openness to diversity that only the hard lessons of life seem to provide. ("The old way didn't work; let's try this way...")

Members pleaded for people who need help to speak to someone about it, and for others to be aware of the asking. This process--the act of reaching out for help as well as spotting need and offering help--is the very soul of community building, members realized. Diva Skydancer volunteered her phone number (544-8842) for people asking help or offering matters for the Council to consider.

The next meeting is Monday, May 5, 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Center. The topic, brought by an aggrieved citizen and agreed on by the group at this meeting, is police behavior. The steering committee of the Council will meet April 17 at the home of Ann Marie Meltzer.

Jonathan von Ranson

ATT.: INVENTORS

ROUNDTABLE FOR INVENTORS

David N. Caracappa, a Winchendon patent attorney, will be the featured speaker at a Business Roundtable for Inventors sponsored by the Millers River CDC. The Roundtable will be held at Ralph Longg's Market Place on Main St. in Athol from 6:30-8:30 pm on Thursday, April 17. North Quabbin area inventors and others interested in creating marketable products from creative ideas are welcome to attend. There is no charge.

Mr. Caracappa began his career as an electrical engineer with a MS in Engineering from RPI in 1974. While working for RCA he became interested in the complexities of intellectual property and patent law, and ended up with a law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1985. He continued to work for large corporations including Wang Laboratories and Digital here in Mass.

In 1993 he began a private law practice in Winchendon, specializing in "intellectual property law". Mr. Caracappa will be targeting the local individual inventors and business people. Large corporations have a relatively easy time obtaining patents, but for individuals the complexity and unfamiliarity of the patent process can pose a substantial barrier between a good idea and market success. Caracappa sees supporting local inventors as a vital link in promoting economic recovery and growth in Western Mass.

In the Roundtable for Inventors, Mr. Caracappa will provide basic information on what is a patentable invention and the steps an inventor can take to protect and profit from her/his intellectual creativity. He will cover pitfalls to avoid and tips on how to reduce the cost of patenting. He will also welcome any questions people have about the process.

CONTACT: Millers River Community Development Corporation
Casey Williams, (508) 249-9295

Wendell on Web?

Would like some feedback from Wendell and surrounding town businesses and services in hopes of developing an area World Wide Web page. This would be an opportunity to open your business or service to a larger market or allow you more visibility.
Myself along with my web manager would like to offer our services and webspace to help with community development for reasonable fees.
Would like to hear from anyone interested to form an organizational meeting. Please call Wanita Sears 544-7198 for more information.

Greetings...

SOCIAL NOTES: Photographer, Ed Judice, formerly of New Salem Road, wishes to be remembered to Wendell. He recently celebrated the big One Year Wedding Anniversary to Christina Hui Ping Huang. They make their home in Northampton in a lovely apartment above the Pleasant Street Theater. Hello, Ed. Hello, Christina! Congratulations!

Wendell Farmer's Market

The Wendell Farmers' and Gardener's Market opens Saturday, May 3, and will run until the end of October. The Market will be open every Saturday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the north end of the Common. In case of rain, the Market will be held under the bandstand.

Farmers, gardeners, artists, crafters and customers are all needed to make the market successful. Help support the local economy!

For more information, contact Linda Hickman at 544-8604.

Plant Swap

10TH ANNUAL /PERENNIAL PLANT SWAP

SUNDAY MAY 18TH
10am - noon
rain or shine
WENDELL COMMON

Trade a plant with a neighbor. Bring a friend. Celebrate our love of gardening.
For info, call Rosie 544-8457.

YOGA CLASS

ANNOUNCEMENT: A new yoga class will be happening at the Senior Center on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. The classes will be taught by Susan (DunLany) von Ranson, a Wendell resident, who has been instructing Hathah Yoga exercise for many years.

Susan describes Yoga as the slow stretching and flexing so beneficial to our health, with conscious breathing techniques and concentration for maximum results. Relaxation and stress reduction are also key elements.

Susan can be called at 544-3758.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 1997

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STARTING TIME: 10:30 AM RUNNERS

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1-(203)377-0752 (DAYS)
1-(860)875-8415 (EVENINGS)

CASH PRIZES!!!

1ST PLACE FINISHERS (MALE & FEMALE)
OPEN: $50.00 MASTERS: $30.00
VETERANS: $25.00 WALKERS: $25.00
RANDOM RAFFLE PRIZES OF $30.00 & $20.00

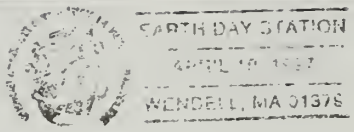
NOTE: TO RECEIVE CASH PRIZES A DIVISION MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE(3) FINISHERS. THERE WILL BE CASH PRIZES FOR 1ST PLACE IN EACH DIVISION EXCEPT THE JUNIOR DIVISION. WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE AWARDS. DIVISION WINNERS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE RANDOM RAFFLE PRIZES. TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED FOR JUNIOR DIVISIONS AND THE YOUNGEST RUNNER AND YOUNGEST WALKER.

AN INVITATIONAL TEAM EVENT!!

5-PERSON TEAMS OF ESTABLISHED RUNNING CLUBS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. TEAM EVENT WINNER IS BASED ON THE LOWEST ACCUMULATIVE TIME OF THE FIRST 5 MEMBERS.

RACE T-SHIRTS $10.00

COURSE RECORDS:
MEN: Steve O'Connell 25.12 Min
WOMEN: Cheryl Dube 29.31 Min
TEAMS: Shenipsit Striders 140.19 Min
WALKING: Esther Klecnik 52.58 Min



On April 19 and 26 the WENDELL POST OFFICE held events celebrating EARTH DAY and ARBOR DAY capped by a special postal cancellation designed by local artist and friend of the environment, MARCY MARCHELLO.

Postmaster, CHARLES O'DOWD, spoke of the relationship of recycling paper products and saving trees saying...

This year the Postal Service lead the nation in "CLEAN YOUR FILES DAY" (April 22) to emphasize recycling and reduction in paper use. In 1996 the USPS recycled more than 1 million tons of wastepaper, cardboard, plastics, cans, and other materials. Currently, all mail is recyclable - there is no reason for it to end up in a landfill.

The Post Office has received innovative New Product or Materials Awards from the National Recycling Coalition for its outstanding efforts to use recycled products. On April 20, 1996 we issued a "SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT" stamped envelope made of 100% post-consumer material from recycled mail.
Recycling saves forests. Recycling one ton of office paper saves 17 trees. Pecycling saves water too. Making paper from recycled paper stock uses 15% less water than making paper "from scratch". Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water (enough to supply th daily needs of 30 households. In short, if we recycled 10 tons of paper, we could save enough water to supply every household in Wendell for one year.

CHARLES O' DOWD
POSTMASTER
WENDELL, MA 01379-9998

THE CELEBRATING DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Our school is fortunate in having committed teachers, involved parents, and an energetic and artistic community. The Swift River School, despite financial restrictions, does well for our children. The limited budget, however, forces the teachers to use a lot of creative energy and volunteers to enrich the curriculum beyond the state requirements that the budget allows for.

One of our parents, Erin Williams, thought of a way to help compensate for the absence of the arts in our school budget, while also giving our young people a broader sense of the world than our small isolated towns can provide. She found enough volunteers, artists and funding to support the "Celebrating Diversity" program our school has been enjoying for the past six years. It is an annual, all school program which gives the students an in-depth understanding of other cultures, while also incorporating the arts into their curriculum.

Each spring the teachers choose a culture to focus on for the following year. Erin Williams and the Celebrating Diversity Committee work with the teachers to coordinate the six week program. Natives of the chosen culture visit the school to talk about their homeland; visual artists, story tellers, musicians, dancers and cooks are found and scheduled into the curriculum to suit the interests and the academic needs of each classroom. Over the past few years Celebrating Diversity has brought the lives of Native Americans, and the people of Japan and Greece into our school. The last two years, the program has brought our school and participating community members closer to our Hispanic neighbors in Puerto Rico and Mexico. Our teachers have recently decided to become more familiar with our neighbors to our north in Canada next year.

Celebrating Diversity has become a tremendous success, thanks to our staff, the program's financial supporters, volunteers, and local artists. Celebrating Diversity is provided in collaboration with the 1794 Meeting House. It is funded by the Wendell and New Salem Cultural Councils, the Franklin County Business for the Arts, The Swift River School's PTCA, the New Salem Academy, and the Mass. Cultural Council which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The program could not exist without all of the staff, family and friends who have contributed their time, materials and energy each year.

- Molly Kaynor

CELEBRATING MEXICO AT THE SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

For six weeks this winter the study of Mexico has been laced through out the school in the most creative ways imaginable. Our teachers worked it into their curriculum artfully and successfully. Just before vacation, (Feb. 13th) the exploration of Mexico culminated with public events. in the morning, everyone enjoyed a variety of entertaining and colorful classroom performances which made use of Mexican folklore, poetry and songs. For the rest of the day and evening, the gym housed the school's Mercado (Marketplace) and Museo (museum) where all students proudly displayed projects related to their Mexican studies. The gym was absolutely brimming with students' handiwork. Each class provided plentiful and intriguing displays which reflected our children's newly acquired understanding and appreciation of Mexican culture and the arts. Ed Hines, the music teacher, led a jovial and informal Mexican sing-along as the day's grand finale.

All of the art work displayed was created by the students with art instruction provided by Lydia Grey's pottery classes, Estela Carera-Infante (of Greenfield's "La Mexican" restaurant) who did cooking, dance and pinata making workshops. George Kokurewicz taught the art of decorative paper cutting- "amuletes" and other Mexican crafts. Linda Ruel has been helping the 5th and 6th graders paint the mural in the front hallway which is in the style of Diego Rivera (a famous Mexican muralist who depicts native workers.) Some other contributions to the program included Mexican history and folklore which was taught through Erin William's story telling and theater, as well as the huge supply of related books she found to have available tc all in the school library. Judy Grupenhoff made Mexico accessible via the Internet; and all of the teachers participated and enhanced this year's study of Mexico in every possible way including language and art projects, etc. of their own.

It is apparent that Mexico has become meaningful to our children. The effects of the program's hands-on approach to learning will stay with them. Celebrating Diversity is a whole school affair which brings all classrooms together as they join to explore various cultures each year. We are fortunate that our teachers have made such good use of the program's potential. Because of their exceptional ability to integrate cultural studies into their daily agenda, every facet of our children's education has been served by this versatile program.

- Molly Kaynor

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Wendell Country Store

Wouldn't if be nice to own a store in the country, far, far away from the hustle and bustle of city life? No pollution, no crime, no stress; a life with blue skies and children safely playing in the backyard among the fauna and flora. Oh, yes, wouldn't it be nice!

"Oh look, dear. They're selling a country store in Wendell."

"Where the h___ is Wendell?!"

Surrounded by state forests with a population of 900 people, Wendell is a hill town located in Franklin County some 75 miles from Boston. When Vic and Patti Scutari moved lock, stock and barrel out of New York to come to their new home and business in Wendell, they thought life was going to be a lot easier. Little did they know that they were inheriting a small business with horrendous problems.

Attempting to operate a diversified, small country store away from major access routes in a state forest was not going to be easy. The culture now demands volume selling for businesses to make enough profits to pay for operating expenditures, taxes, insurance, etc. A small community store in the middle of nowhere just doesn't make it.

Vic and Patti kept their spirits up and worked long and hard in an attempt to make a success of this small business. They neglected their personal lives, their children, and many of their friends in order to meet the uncompromising demands of this situation.

They probably would have succeeded if not for the shoplifting, the break-ins, the problematic gas tanks, and their radical politics. But isn't Wendell a radical town? A hotbed of political activism and counterculture?

What follows is a report on how this couple asked for help when faced with the possibility of having to close the store and leave the community high and dry.

Over fifty neighbors and friends answered the call and jammed into the senior center space to find out how they could help save the store. Vic and Patti outlined the problems that they were experiencing and the Wendell community responded with enthusiasm and creativity.

Ideas filled the room and slowly began to materialize. Committees were formed to research and suggest solutions for security, marketing, and logistics. Folks began to volunteer to help bring produce and newspapers to the store, put up signs and buy more products. A benefit was planned to help offset the financial loss due to the break-ins. It was clear that the Wendell community did not want to lose their country store and were willing to help in any way they could.

The Wendell Country Store is one of the only meeting places in town where friends and neighbors exchange news of the day while picking up essentials or sipping tea and eating muffins. Our industrialized culture has systematically been eliminating traditional meeting places where community is nurtured and supported. Without safe places to meet and the freedom to congregate, a community cannot flourish.

In the meetings that followed, other issues emerged related to the quality of community life in Wendell. Individuals were being neglected; others were being rejected; and some were expressing inappropriate behaviors such as physical and verbal abuse. There seemed to be no appropriate process existing in the community to resolve these issues.

After a deep soul-searching, an idea for a community council was suggested and resonated with the group. The details for how such a council might function will be the subject for a future meeting.

Friends of Wendell are optimistic and inspired with the results of their efforts during this crisis. We are reminded of what Wally Nelson has often said, "Community is our only insurance."

Josh Dostis

Total Wendell Effort

Friends of Wendell's First Fund-Raiser a Success
by Chris Marano

On Februray 1, 1997, Friends of Wendell hosted a "Variety A Show for the Whole Family" to help raise funds in support of the Wendell Country Store. The event was originally conceived in November when a concerned group of Wendell and New Salem folk met to discuss how we could address the burglaries and constant shoplifting that has plagued the store. Although proprietors Vic and Patti Scutari were extremely reluctant to receive financial help, the fifty-plus members of the group felt compelled to share the burden for "what we feel is 'our' community store." In addtion to money, the hopes were that the variety show would also raise consciousness about community in general and rally the spirit of Wendell folk. In all areas, the show was a resounding success.

Competing with typical February Wendell weather and a host of youth soccer games, the show still drew over one hundred adults and children. Paul Richmond started things off with an interactive juggling performance, immediately setting the tone that this was to be a community affair. Sally Alley followed with one of her unique and entertaining story/sing-alongs, complete with puppets and, of course, audience participation. Chris Yerlig -- AKA Hoopoe the Clown -- mesmerized the audience for almost an hour with his original and improvisational mime performance, which at one point involved playing "didgeridoo" on a vaccuum cleaner tube. Last was a show-stopper: Hilltown Fling (Sarah deRoode, Rosie Heidkamp, Nae Oma, Laurie Stammell and Shirley White) riveted the audeince with their sometimes transporting and always foot-stomping Contra music. Hilltown Fling and the rest of the performers are a Wendell treasure.

In the end, the show raised $615.00, the bulk of which went to the Country Store. With the remaining funds, Friends of Wendell opened an account at the Worker's Credit Union in Orange in hopes that, as the community council group continues to evolve, monies would be available for various needs of the people in the community. Although Mez Ziemba and Chris Marano were given major credit for organizing the event, it was truly a team effort; and although both Mez and Chris have decided to take an indefinite rest, they are both open to the possibilty of staging future fund raisers that bring community together.

Best of all, the variety show was a total Wendell effort: concerned Wendell citizens organized a Wendell event with Wendell assistance to help other Wendell citizens. The talent all hailed from Wendell, the food was baked by Wendell town folk and almost 100% of the audience was from Wendell. The energy and positive feeling that was generated by the event was inspiring, and felt by all. Thanks to all that helped, and let's do it again sometime.

Grassroots Growing

The Birth of a Wendell Community Council
by Chris Marano

There is something brewing at the Wendell Senior Center from 7-9 PM every first (more or less) Monday of the month. What started out as a concerned community group rallying to help the Country Store has evolved into something more. At the first meeting in November of 1996, we shared ideas and concerns about and for the Country Store and its propriteors. A few things quickly became apparent:

1. With a slight tweak of the knob, the Country Store issue could easily be any of several dozen other issues and concerns of other Wendell folk;

2. There is a desire among many Wendell folk to help such people (these people are ourselves);

3. There is no environment or organized space in which people or groups can air and share their ideas, concerns, or beliefs, whether they be personal or community minded in nature.

4. There is a desire among many Wendell folk to establish a Community Council in which people can come to share theire feelings and ideas in a safe and supportive environment.

To some, the fund raiser on February 1, 1997, may have been what the group -- Friends of Wendell -- solely existed for, but, to many others, the fund raiser was only one -- and a small one at that -- avenue that we pursued. The deeper issues of what community is (or can be) requires more vision, effort and planning than a simple, one-shot-deal fund raiser.

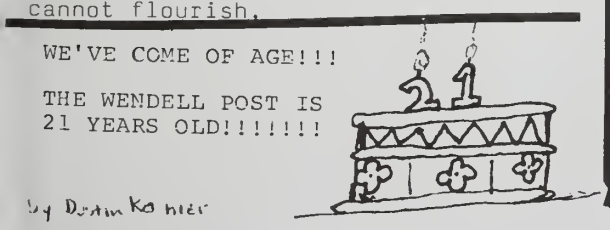
As of now, ideas are still amorphous for what the Community Council's parameters of responsibilties ought to be. When you have a community filled with as many talented and broad-minded people as Wendell, there is bound to be an enormous number of ideas and opinions to wade through. That is where we are at present, but we have hopes that a more concrete -- though not rigid -- vision of who and what Friends of Wendell Community Council is will gel in the coming months.

At our last meeting, members all voiced their ideas of what an ideal Community Council would be and do. It was also suggested that, instead of re-inventing the wheel, we research other types of community councils -- such as the Native American Long House tradition -- for ideas.

It was also unanimously agreed that we would make every effort not to be exclusivist, for exclusivism can be subtle its workings. Wendell is a community of almost 1000, with people of all ages, from all walks of life, and with varying ideologies. But we are all Wendellites. By definition, that already makes us a community. We feel that the Community Council's ultimate goal will be to provide a platform where people can share and possibly process thair concerns. But before any of that can happen, we realize it is necessary to become acquainted with the many small community groups that exist in Wendell. One of our first projects, then , is to invite these formal and informal groups to share their viewpoints, so that we come to better understand our similarities and differences.

Another goal is to make available a list of people who live in Wendell and vicinity who have various talents and expertise and who would be willing to offer their time and services if the need ever arose. For example, we are interested in exploring the legalities of continuing to have operating gas pumps in our town , but it requires the talents of a lawyer to sift through the various laws, limitations and possible loop holes.

If anyone is interested in the further development of Friends of Wendell Community Council, we invite you to join us at our next meeting in April. We will post the time, date and place at the Wendell Country Store. Please come and share your ideas.



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SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL
INTERIM PRINCIPAL

I had the pleasure of taking the assignment to meet and speak with the new temporary principal for Swift River School. Her name is Christine Lewis. Christine grew up in Hadley. Her last job was an assistant principal in an elementary school in Chicago. Her husband, Kirby and 11 month old daughter, Alexandria moved to Charleston last year. Christine is the middle child of a family of five. Her brother had moved to Boston and it has been wonderful to be close to him. She stays with her Mom (who takes care of Alexandria) in Hadley most week nights and spends the weekends in the city with her husband and daughter. It hasn't been easy working long days and being away from home, but they all know it's for a limited amount of time and having this job as interim principal is giving them time to think over some future decisions.

While talking about SRS and the differences she sees in this school and her last job, she smiles broadly. One thing is she loves to be back in New England. Christine has found it very interesting to be in such a small school. She feels that the 200 student enrollment is the perfect size for an elementary school. It feels very comfortable and has an open feeling to the school. She tells about one night when she had to stay for a meeting, a parent called up and said, "Hey, this is what I'm making for supper, do you eat this and can I bring you some?" She says that never happens at the bigger schools and it is a pleasure getting to know the students, staff and parents in both communities. This open feeling definitely makes the job fun and enjoyable. She agreed with the interim job and understands the importance of having a temporary principal but says she would love to consider this position as a full time job. She hopes that her small amount of time that she is at SRS she will help make the transition from Leonard Strauss to whomever is the next principal an easier one. The first month that she was here she said that she could see that people were uncertain what to do. The second month was better and things are going smoother now. Christine finds the job to be very hands on. She has the opportunity to go into classrooms and teach, to be able to get involved in the goings on of almost every aspect of the school is very exciting for her.

One of the things that I heard throughout our conversation was the people. They wave as the go by instead of not noticing or being rude. They work together. A teacher bringing her guitar in to play her some songs on another long night. Little things that go a long way. This is a small school with two different communities. Each community has its own style and issues that are unique to them and different from even Hadley. She finds it very intereresting to learn about the towns and the history of each. Issues like dirt roads, S-turns and mountains are very different than she had to deal with in Chicago.

She says every school has its positive and that there is always room to improve, this is what the challenge is. We have a strong base here and a lot of community input and support.

In closing Principal Lewis says, "I'll be sad at the end of June when it's time to say goodbye but this job has given my family the time to make some decisions about our future." And for that she is grateful.

Anne Diemand

GOODBYE TO LEONARD STRAUSS & WELCOME TO CHRISTINE LEWIS

The staff and students of Swift River School are sorry as can be to see Leonard Strauss leaving after so many wonderful years. But we also wish to welcome our new principal, Christine Lewis. She has been here this week learning as much about the job as possible from Mr. Strauss. She's a quick learner and has a great sense of humor. We are lucky to have her and welcome her as she tries to fill those big shoes of Mr. Strauss'!

OPEN LETTER TO MR. STRAUSS

Dear Leonard,

I remember how you paid more attention to my 4 year old and his Matchbox car than to me, when we first met.

I remember how you interrupted a meeting to take a child from a parentless home to his friend's house across town.

I remember the look of disappointment on a small girl's face when she went into your office to get help with her coat zipper, and you were not there.

I remember you carefully applying a band-aid, when the nurse wasn't available.

I remember your exchanging secret handshakes with rowdy sixth graders.

I remember how much your words meant to my child when you said, "I respect people who learn from their mistakes."

I remember seeing you at every class celebration and every meeting of every committee and council and special needs team, etc., every day.

I remember Sprinkle Thief glitter in your hair.

I remember noticing how frequently your faithful Toyota waited ... your office light still on late into the night.

I'll remember that I never saw you humiliate or belittle.

I'll remember how carefully and tenderly you fit our school to our community.

I'll remember that you listened and made each one of us feel that we could make a difference.

Our children will remember those things, too. Your influence will last in them. You are one of the finest people they will ever know.

From a Grateful Parent

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL
QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL

* Indicates all A's

A-B HONOR ROLL

Browning, Jesse
Ewell, David
Murcell, Ciji
Simon, Kelly
* White-Diemand, Tessa
Walsh, Liam
* Daniel-Stamell, Anne
Flynn, Kelsey
* Gross, Mara
Waldron, Benjamin
Gamache, Grace
* Manley, Caralee
Ryznic, Debi
* Gilman, Kyle
Boland, Nathan
Cleveland, Chrystina

MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND HONOR ROLL

Flynn, Darcy
Walsh, Brendan
Drohen, Brianna

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL

FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

Upcoming Events

April 19
ANATOLIA
for
WENDELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 17
Steve Charney

Open Mike at 7:30
Dessert-O-Rama
Always a Benefit!
Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

GROWERS FOR SEED SAVING NEEDED

Eastern Native Seed Conservancy is seeking responsible and experienced growers who are interested in maintaining some seed varieties for them, by growing them out, saving seed, and returning a portion to them for inventory and possible inclusion in the seed catalog.
You may use seed you are already maintaining or seed they have specifically arranged for you to grow from their stock. Please do not send unsolicited seed.
You may contact them for a participant grower form by writing to Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, 722 Main St., P.O. BOx 451, Great Barrington, MA 01230 or calling (413) 229-8316.
If you have or know of any old "undiscovered" seed varieties of the Northeast region still being grown by friends, relatives, or neighbors please let them know. They will help maintain the variety.

Wanita Sears

Wendell Woman Winner

Ruth Morant of 93 Lockes Village Road, Wendell, is the winner of a $40 gift certificate to Eddie's Restaurant, presented to her by Athol Memorial Hospital. Her name was drawn at random from reply cards mailed by residents of the North Quabbin Region who received information about the hospital. The marketing program is part of an effort by the hospital to inform area residents about health care services offered locally.